



JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

For Immediate Release:
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Governor Signs Senator Petrowski's Veterans Grant Bills

MADISON, WI... Today, Governor Scott Walker signed Senate Bill 418 and Senate Bill 419, both authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and passed unanimously by the Wisconsin Legislature. The bills will put two new grant programs into place to help create better outcomes for nonprofit organizations serving veterans, and veterans employment and entrepreneurship.

Last session, the Legislature created a new pilot program that offered grant funding to nonprofit organizations that serve veterans and their families. That bill relied upon funding from an existing, underutilized appropriation in the Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), which helped to ensure that these funds would actually be used to provide support to veterans. Over twenty organizations received funding through the program, including groups addressing veteran homelessness, job assistance, treatment courts, and PTSD, among many others.

To build upon that success, **Senate Bill 418** permanently recreated that grant program for nonprofit organizations serving veterans using existing funds in the amount of \$250,000, with a maximum limit of \$25,000 per grant recipient, in each biennium.

"Taking care of the men and women who served to protect our country should always be a top priority as a state," said Senator Petrowski. "These bills ensure that successful non-profits providing crucial care and services to our veterans will be able to continue that success. Additionally, the new employment grant will help smooth the transition for veterans returning home to the private sector."

Senate Bill 419 eliminates the Veterans Employment Grant program in the WDVA, and creates a new grant that would focus on veterans employment and entrepreneurship. That grant program had never been used, as the requirements were such that no veteran or disabled veteran has qualified.

The bill would create a \$500,000 grant program in WDVA to be used to provide grants to veterans, employers, and nonprofit organizations to improve employment outcomes for veterans. The grants would be focused on veteran entrepreneurs, job training, and giving employers incentives to hire veterans, with a focus on veterans with a service-connected disability.

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